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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND

DD/ST# 2736-64

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Serial: N 1109

9 OCT 1964

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Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, Virginia
ATTN: Dr. Albert D. Wheelon

Dear Dr. Wheelon:

This letter is a confirmation of our discussion concerning some of the deficiencies in the long range SIGINT research and development area.

NSA is particularly concerned that the typical statement of requirements is a relatively short range one (with some exceptions), while the typical development cycle for collection and processing equipment is a long one. This dichotomy presents us with unusually severe problems in the optimum development of collection and processing equipment. It tends to emphasize the more expensive and less efficient make-shift approaches inherent in this kind of quick reaction. While NSA has been quite successful in many of these QRC type approaches, it is well recognized that they are a poor substitute for a well thought out longer term program of development based upon the best possible statement of long term requirements which can be achieved. The expedience of QRC should be relegated to those few cases in which this kind of quick response is made necessary by changes or new unanticipated developments in the technology or operations of our opposition.

We are apparently agreed on the desirability of such statements of longer term requirements for the beneficial effects that can be realized in the advancement of critical areas of our state-of-the-art in order to meet those requirements in a more timely manner in as large a percentage of cases as possible. Much effort by individual people or organizations has been devoted to parts of this problem; we believe the time has come for us jointly to attack the problem.

DIA review(s) completed.

NSA review(s) completed.

GROUP 3

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It is our proposal that CIA name a project officer to work with an NSA and a DIA project officer who will jointly obtain from their respective agencies the best that can be arrived at in terms of long range intelligence requirements, and particularly the foreseen (future) deficiencies in collection for which research or development is appropriate.

This is a long term and necessarily a continuing effort; it can perhaps best be accomplished in two phases:

Phase I - A quick assembly of readily available data on the directly applicable Sino-Soviet electronic technology (and its first derivative: signals) for use in the present effort of ascertaining next year's program. This might be the first task to be accomplished in this joint effort.

Phase II - A more complete and comprehensive study of Sino-Soviet technological trends, including the relationship to U.S. technological developments, accomplished in depth in order to have long range requirements stated for a period in excess of the typical development cycle.

Completion of these two phases should make it possible to pass the results to USIB for consideration as longer term extensions of their requirements statements. It will also have laid groundwork for the continuing effort which is necessary by the organizations concerned to keep the work accomplished in Phase II up-to-date with corrections and additions as dictated by any new or changing technological developments--U.S., friendly, or opposition.

In conducting the study outlined above, it is felt that CIA contribution of information from scientific and technical estimates and from other research work done by your analysts would be particularly valuable.

If you agree with this proposal, an early meeting of project officers is suggested to establish working relationships and arrangements. The NSA project officer is D41, Phone: 7941 (Outside), 3791 (Secure).

Sincerely,

/Sgnd/ Leo Rosen

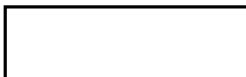
LEO ROSEN

Assistant Director, NSA

for

The Research and Engineering Staff

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